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PRESTON LEE

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

PRESTON LEE,

Plaintiff,

vs.

L3HARRIS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;

JOHN DOES 1-10; JANE DOES 1-10;

DOE CORPORATIONS 1-10; DOE

PARTNERSHIPS 1-10; DOE

UNINCORPORATED

ORGANIZATIONS

1-10; and DOE GOVERNMENTAL

AGENCIES 1-10,

Defendants.

) CIVIL NO.

) (Other Civil Action)

) COMPLAINT; DEMAND FOR JURY

) TRIAL

**COMPLAINT**

COMES NOW Plaintiff PRESTON LEE [hereinafter referred to as "MR.

LEE"] and complains against the above-named Defendants alleges and avers as follows:

### **I. NATURE OF CASE**

1. The basis of this L3HARRIS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. is employment discrimination law violations as related to MR. LEE's employment at L3HARRIS TECHNOLOGIES, INC. [hereinafter referred to as "L3"].

### **II. JURISDICTION**

2. MR. LEE brings this action pursuant, including, but not limited to, the Americans With Disabilities Act ["ADA"] and Hawaii Revised Statutes ["HRS"] Chapter 378 Part I, Discriminatory Practices, to obtain full and complete relief and to redress the tortious conduct described herein.

3. At all times relevant herein, MR. LEE was a resident of the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawaii.

4. At all times relevant herein, Defendant L3 is an employer within the meaning of HRS Chapter 378. L3 was and is doing business in the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawaii.

5. At all times relevant herein, Defendant L3's is a for-profit business incorporated in the State of Delaware.

6. Upon information and belief, and at all times relevant herein, Defendant L3's employees, agents and/or representatives, were acting within the

course and scope of their duties as employees, agents and/or representatives of L3; therefore, L3 is liable for the intentional and/or tortious and/or wrongful conduct of said employees, agents and/or representatives pursuant to the doctrine of Respondeat Superior and/or principles of Agency.

7. Defendants JOHN DOES 1-100, JANE DOES 1-100, DOE CORPORATIONS 1-10, DOE PARTNERSHIPS 1-10, DOE UNINCORPORATED ORGANIZATIONS 1-10, and DOE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES 1-10 are sued herein under fictitious names because their true names, identities and capacities are unknown to the MR. LEE, except that they are connected in some manner with Defendants, and are/were agents, servants, employees, employers, representatives, co-venturers, associates, or independent contractors of Defendants herein, and were acting with the permission and consent and within the course and scope of said agency and employment and/or were in some manner presently unknown to the MR. LEE engaged in the activities alleged herein and/or were in some way responsible for the injuries or damages to the MR. LEE, which activities were a proximate cause of said injuries or damages to the MR. LEE. MR. LEE has made good faith and diligent efforts to identify said Defendants, including interviewing individuals with knowledge of the claims herein. At such time as their true names and identities become known, the MR. LEE will amend this Complaint accordingly.

8. All Defendants will be collectively referred to as “DEFENDANTS”.

9. All events done by DEFENDANTS described herein occurred within the County of Kaua’i, State of Hawai’i, and within the jurisdiction and venue of this Court.

### **III. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

10. MR. LEE was hired on March 20, 1994 to work on the Flight Line at the time ITT Industries was the main contractor for the United States Navy at Barking Sands.

11. MR. LEE worked on the Flight Line as a helicopter inspector.

12. MR. LEE never had any performance issues related to his ability to perform his job duties.

13. In November 2006, MR. LEE became a painter.

14. L3 took over the United States Navy contract MR. LEE worked under from ITT Industries in or about 2015.

15. MR. LEE had the position of Painter.

16. MR. LEE is a combat veteran and was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in February 2019.

17. In February 2019, MR. LEE received 100% VA disability due to his PTSD.

18. L3 became aware of MR. LEE's disability via L3 Lead Sean Igne on or about February 2019.

19. Since being diagnosed with PTSD, MR. LEE was harassed and unfairly disciplined.

20. L3 Lead Sean Igne told L3's human resources that he was afraid to work with MR. LEE because of MR. LEE's PTSD.

21. Mr. Igne asked MR. LEE why he doesn't just retire.

22. MR. LEE told Mr. Igne it was none of his business.

23. In or about March 2019, L3 Rigging Shop Lead Mark Vegas went to their union meeting and asked how can MR. LEE be working if he had 100% disability for PTSD.

24. Tony Pereira, L3 Lead Electrician, then stated: Wait a minute, Preston has 100% PTSD disability then he is a liability for the company. We have to inform the company because if he snaps the company will get sued. They have to let him go.

25. Upon information and belief, Mr. Vegas helped Mr. Igne write letters to L3 to falsely portray MR. LEE in a negative light.

26. In March 2019, MR. LEE was told by his supervisor, Rodney Martin, to go to the human resources ("HR") at 9:00 a.m.

27. MR. LEE did as instructed and met with Julie Broyles head of

L3 HR and Jasmine Apo an L3 HR representative.

28. At the meeting, Ms. Broyles confirmed she was aware of MR. LEE's PTSD.

29. Ms. Boynes began to ask MR. LEE a series of questions listed below related to his PTSD as Ms. Apo took notes.

30. Ms. Broyles stated because of your PTSD we have to ask you some questions.

31. Ms. Broyles stated we have to ask you these questions because we are here to help you.

32. Ms. Broyles asked, amongst other questions:

- a. Do you want to hurt your coworkers? MR. LEE Answered, "No."
- b. Do you want to hurt yourself? MR. LEE Answered, "No."
- c. Do you want to kill your coworkers? MR. LEE Answered, "No."
- d. Do you want to kill yourself? MR. LEE Answered, "No."
- e. Do you have an anger problem? MR. LEE Answered, "No."
- f. Do you want to kill people when you get angry? MR. LEE Answered, "No."
- g. Do you need anger management classes? MR. LEE Answered, "No."

h. Do you need a psychiatrist? MR. LEE Answered, "No."

i. Do you have a drug problem? MR. LEE Answered, "No."

j. Do you have an alcohol problem? MR. LEE Answered, "No."

33. MR. LEE asked them if they were trying to fire him and Ms. Broyles and Ms. Apo said they were there to help MR. LEE.

34. After MR. LEE was called in and interviewed by HR, he spoke with L3's Bill Nordmeier, the operator for grounds department, who also had just received 100% VA disability for his back.

35. Due to the way MR. LEE was questioned by HR after getting his 100% disability from the federal government, Mr. Nordmeier went to L3 HR to inform them that he also got his 100% disability.

36. Mr. Nordmeier went to L3 HR and disclosed that he had received 100% disability from the federal government and wanted to disclose it to L3.

37. HR at L3 told Mr. Nordmeier that he doesn't need to disclose it and that he shouldn't talk about his disability at work as it was personal.

38. On or about April 9, 2019, MR. LEE was called by L3's Scott Taylor and MR. LEE reported to Mr. Taylor about Mr. Igne stealing the gasoline.

39. On or about November 15, 2019, MR. LEE's coworker Gilbert

Castro was written up for not wearing protective gear.

40. After lunch on the same date, Mr. Igne yelled at MR. LEE to put on pants which MR. LEE complied with.

41. MR. LEE was power washing at that time and was wearing shorts because he was soaking wet.

42. MR. LEE was wearing steel toed rubber boots.

43. At that time, Mr. Igne was also wearing shorts and tennis shoes.

44. Mr. Igne wore shorts and tennis shoes nearly every day at work.

45. Based on information and belief, Mr. Igne told human resources/management via a note/letter that MR. LEE had previously been written up for not wear his pants. This was not true.

46. Based on information and belief, Mr. Igne told human resources/management that MR. LEE yelled at or got aggressive with Mr. Igne when Mr. Igne asked MR. LEE to put his pants on. This was a lie.

47. On the same date, MR. LEE told Mr. Igne, "Tomorrow if I have to wear long pants, you have to wear long pants. If I have to wear steel toe shoes you have to wear steel toe shoes. What is good for one is good for all. So come tomorrow morning have your PPE or else."

48. Mr. Igne said, "Or else what, you going turn me in?"

49. MR. LEE respond, "Yeah"



50. Mr. Igne: "Well fuck you"

51. MR. LEE "Well fuck you too."

52. Mr. Igne and MR. LEE exchanged a couple more "fuck yous" and MR. LEE realized it was wrong and walked away.

53. The following work day, MR. LEE was called into Mr. Martin's regarding a letter/note that Mr. Igne wrote to human resources/management regarding the previous day's confrontation with MR. LEE.

54. MR. LEE was told Mr. Igne reported via the aforementioned note/letter that MR. LEE was previously written by the safety lady for not his wearing pants. This was not true.

55. Mr. Martin asked why wasn't MR. LEE wearing his pants after he had already been written up by the safety lady previously?

56. MR. LEE responded, "I never got written up."

57. Mr. Martin was surprised and said, "What?"

58. MR. LEE said, "Yeah, I never got written up. Gilbert got written up"

59. Mr. Martin looked at the letter and told MR. LEE he better not lie.

60. Mr. Martin again asked MR. LEE if he got written up by the safety lady previously and MR. LEE emphatically said no.

61. MR. LEE had not been written up by the safety lady. There are multiple witnesses to this fact.

62. During this meeting MR. LEE told Mr. Martin, "How can he tell me to put on long pants when he is wearing shorts and tennis shoes?"

63. Wearing shorts and tennis shoes on the jobsite is a clear OSHA safety violation that Mr. Martin clearly had been aware of for years.

64. Mr. Martin said he was going to investigate this.

65. Mr. Lee stated, "Why am I always being investigated. Why don't you investigate Mr. Igne.

66. To note, previously in or about October 2018, Mr. Igne lied to Mr. Martin and stated MR. LEE walked up to Mr. Igne with clenched fists acted like he was going to attack Mr. Igne and saying he was going to kick Mr. Igne's ass after work.

67. This was proven to be a lie by the two witnesses present.

68. MR. LEE asked Mr. Martin to write up Mr. Igne for lying regarding the October 2018 incident and Mr. Martin did nothing.

69. On November 18, 2019, MR. LEE had a meeting with human recourses and Mr. Martin regarding the confrontation with Mr. Igne.

70. MR. LEE was told he was written up for breaking the code of conduct for telling Mr. Igne fuck you.

71. MR. LEE responded, "I said fuck you because he told me fuck you."

72. MR. LEE then said: "You guys are always investigating me for this and investigating me for that."

73. MR. LEE left he said why is he being investigated when others are not.

74. MR. LEE said if they wanted to investigate something, you should investigate Mr. Igne for stealing gas.

75. MR. LEE reported that every Tuesday and Thursday for years Mr. Igne would take 5 gallons of gas for personal vehicle via a gas container.

76. This could have easily been investigated and confirmed via the amount of gas Mr. Igne was using for his company vehicle compared to the amount for gas he used.

77. MR. LEE told them he had to immediately take stress leave and that he could not work under these conditions.

78. MR. LEE went to see his doctor that every day to be placed on stress leave.

79. MR. LEE's stress leave was effective November 21, 2020.

80. On December 5, 2019, Ross West, the L3 project manager called MR. LEE and requested his CAC card and secret clearance card.

81. MR. LEE was directed by Mr. West to give his CAC card and secret clearance card to Mr. West and if he wasn't there then give it to his secretary.

82. MR. LEE objected and said that was not proper as the CAC card and the secret clearance card were national security related items that need to be secure at all times.

83. MR. LEE did not think he should give such items to Mr. West.

84. Following Mr. West's directive, MR. LEE brought the CAC card and secret clearance card on December 6, 2020 to Mr. West's office.

85. As Mr. West was not there, Mr. LEE did as directed and left his CAC and his secret clearance card with Mr. West's secretary.

86. This was a clear national security violation as MR. LEE should have been directed to provide the CAC card and secret clearance card to the L3 security to safeguard those security sensitive items.

87. There were other L3 employees who were on stress leave that did not have their CAC cards and clearance cards removed by L3.

88. On or about April 1, 2020, MR. LEE was ready to come back to work from stress leave.

89. He was told by human recourse to stay home and he would be paid his full wages.

90. On June 22, 2020, MR. LEE was issued his termination letter that does not indicate why he was terminated.

91. MR. LEE was never told why exactly he was terminated.

92. On February 27, 2020, MR. LEE timely filed his EEOC and Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission Charge of Discrimination for disability discrimination and retaliation.

93. On or about August 19, 2020, MR. LEE received his Right to Sue letter from the EEOC.

**COUNT I**  
**DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION (ADA)**

94. MR. LEE incorporates paragraphs 1 through 93 as though fully set forth herein.

95. An employer shall not discriminate against an employee based on disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act

96. L3's conduct as described above is a violation of the ADA.

97. The aforementioned acts and/or conduct of the L3 entitles MR. LEE to damages as provided by law. As a direct and proximate result of said unlawful employment practices MR. LEE has suffered extreme mental anguish, outrage, depression, great humiliation, severe anxiety about his future and his ability to support himself, as well as painful embarrassment among his relatives and friends, damage to his good reputation, disruption of his personal life, loss of

enjoyment of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life and other general damages in an amount which meets the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

## **COUNT II RETALIATION**

98. MR. LEE incorporates paragraphs 1 through 97 as though fully set forth herein.

99. The treatment of MR. LEE, as described aforesaid, evidences retaliation against MR. LEE at L3 for complaining of discrimination at the L3.

100. It shall be unlawful discriminatory practice for an employer to retaliate against an individual under the ADA.

101. The L3's conduct as described above is a violation of the ADA. These aforementioned acts and/or conduct of the L3 entitle MR. LEE to damages as provided by law. As a direct and proximate result of said unlawful employment practices MR. LEE has suffered extreme mental anguish, outrage, depression, great humiliation, severe anxiety about his future and his ability to support himself, as well as painful embarrassment among his relatives and friends, damage to his good reputation, disruption of his personal life, loss of enjoyment of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life and other general damages in an amount which meets the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court.

## **COUNT III VIOLATION OF HRS 378 PART V WHISTLEBLOWERS' PROTECTION ACT**

102. MR. LEE incorporates paragraphs 1 through 101 as though fully set forth herein.

103. The treatment of MR. LEE, as described aforesaid, evidences retaliation against MR. LEE at L3 for reporting illegal practices at L3.

104. An employer shall not retaliate against an employee based on their whistleblowing under HRS, § 378-62 which states in pertinent part as follows:

§ 378-62: An employer shall not discharge, threaten or otherwise discriminate against an employee... because:

- (1) The employee... reports or is about to report to the employer... verbally or in writing, a violation or suspected violation of:
  - (A) A law, rule, ordinance, or regulation, adopted pursuant to the law of this State, a political subdivision of the State or the United States;

105. L3's conduct as described above is a violation of HRS § 378-62(1)(A). These aforementioned acts and/or conduct of L3 entitle MR. LEE to damages as provided by law. As a direct and proximate result of said unlawful employment practices MR. LEE has suffered extreme mental anguish, outrage, depression, great humiliation, severe anxiety about his future and her ability to support himself, as well as painful embarrassment among his relatives and friends, damage to his good reputation, disruption of his personal life, loss of enjoyment of

the ordinary pleasures of everyday life and other general damages in an amount which meets the minimal jurisdictional limits of this Court

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, MR. LEE respectfully prays that this Court enter judgment granting the following relief on all causes of action:

A. That this Court enter a declaratory judgment that L3 have violated the rights of MR. LEE;

B. That this Court award MR. LEE special damages for the aforementioned Counts;

C. That this Court award MR. LEE compensatory damages, proximately caused by L3 illegal conduct, including, but not limited to, general damages for emotional distress in an amount to be proven at trial;

D. As L3's treatment of MR. LEE, as aforesaid, constitutes extreme and outrageous behavior which exceeds all bounds usually tolerated by decent society. In committing the above acts and omissions, L3 acted wantonly and/or oppressively and/or with such malice as implies a spirit of mischief or criminal indifference to civil obligations and/or there has been some willful misconduct that demonstrates that entire want of care which would raise the presumption of a conscious indifference to consequences, justifying an award of punitive or exemplary damages in an amount to be proven at trial, that this Court



award MR. LEE exemplary or punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial;

E. That this Court award MR. LEE reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit herein as well as prejudgment and post-judgment interest;

F. That this Court order appropriate injunctive relief;

G. That this Court retain jurisdiction over this action until L3 has fully complied with the order of this Court and that this Court require L3 to file such reports as may be necessary to secure compliance;

H. That this Court award MR. LEE such other and further relief both legal and equitable as this Court deems just, necessary and proper under the circumstances.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, November 13, 2020.

/s/ Joseph T. Rosenbaum  
ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA  
JOSEPH T. ROSENBAUM  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
PRESTON LEE

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

PRESTON LEE,

Plaintiff,

vs.

L3HARRIS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;

JOHN DOES 1-10; JANE DOES 1-10;

DOE CORPORATIONS 1-10; DOE

PARTNERSHIPS 1-10; DOE

UNINCORPORATED

ORGANIZATIONS

1-10; and DOE GOVERNMENTAL

AGENCIES 1-10,

Defendants.

) CIVIL NO.

) (Other Civil Action)

) DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury on all issues so triable herein.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, November 13, 2020.

/s/ Joseph T. Rosenbaum

ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA

JOSEPH T. ROSENBAUM

Attorneys for Plaintiff

PRESTON LEE

HID 440 (Rev. 12/09) Summons in a Civil Action

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of Hawaii

Preston Lee

*Plaintiff*

v.

L3Harris Technologies, Inc.

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 20-00489 LEK-KJM

## SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: *(Defendant's name and address)* L3Harris Technologies, Inc.  
c/o  
Corporation Service Company  
1003 BISHOP STREET  
SUITE 1600 PAUAAHI TOWER  
HONOLULU, Hawaii 96813  
UNITED STATES

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA 3558  
JOSEPH T. ROSENBAUM 9205  
1100 Alakea St., 20th Fl., Ste B  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Date: November 23, 2020



CLERK OF COURT

/s/ Michelle Rynne, Clerk by EA, Deputy Clerk

*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*